



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON, DC

Office of the Assistant Secretary

27 APR 2004

SAF/IEI

**1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1665**

**The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515-6035**

Dear Mr. Chairman

Pursuant to Congressional committee direction, this letter is to notify you that I have approved a four-phase facility repair project with a total cost of \$9.3M at Eareckson AS, Alaska to replace waste heat lines. The Air Force is currently working to identify funds in the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) appropriation for this project.

This project will replace a portion of existing waste heat (hot water) lines, valves, insulation, valve pits and heat exchangers. The project will replace the existing system, which is 44 years old, currently inoperable, and beyond economical repair. The project will resume the provision of hot water to fifteen facilities by passing hot water circulated from the central heat plant through heat exchangers rather than using auxiliary boilers, which are inefficient, maintenance-intensive, and cannot provide adequate heat on many days each year. This project will provide an efficient, continuous supply of hot water to these fifteen facilities.

We have chosen to accomplish this project under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2811. The work is classified as repair and the use of operation and maintenance funds provides the flexibility to plan the work with minimum disruption to operations while balancing our operation and maintenance and military construction programs.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred W. Kuhn".

FRED W. KUHN

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Installations)**